(b) whether Government have received any representation from the media urging for taking action against such operators in Karnataka; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to curb such undesirable practices?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (c) Programmes of all TV channels transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable Network are required to adhere to Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder.

Programme Code, *inter alia,* prohibits telecasting of programmes which contain anything obscene or defamatory. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to look into violations of Programme and Advertising Codes. A complaint has been received from Aushadhiya Varthe on illegal telecasting of news titled C.B.S. News from Gangawathi city in Koppal district of Karnataka. Appropriate action will be taken on the complaint in consultation with the Inter-Ministerial Committee.

Publication of foreign newspapers and periodicals

51. SHRI MURLI DEORA:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to permit foreign investment by NRI/ PIOs, overseas corporate bodies and portfolio investments, besides FDI in print media subject to the ceiling of 26 per cent;

(b) whether Government also propose to allow foreign newspapers and periodicals to publish facsimile editions from India; having any access to Indian contents and advertisements;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Press and Registration of Books Act in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government has enlarged the investor category in the news and current affairs segment of the print media to include foreign direct investment by NRIs, PIOs and portfolio investments by recognized FIIs subject to the overall ceiling of 26 percent. It has also been decided to allow facsimile editions of foreign newspapers in India without access to Indian content or Indian advertisements.

(c) and (d) The Government is in the process of carrying out amendments in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. This being a policy matter, details and time frame cannot be stated at this stage.

Uplinking policy for foreign TV channels

52. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a group of Ministers to study uplinking policy for foreign television channels;

(b) if so, by when the GOM would submit its report;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have issued revised guidelines for foreign investment in television news channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government have constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine the proposal for review of Uplinking Policy and finalise its recommendations within two weeks.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Piracy in film industry

53. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the film Industry has suffered heavy losses due to the prevalent menance of unchecked piracy; and